

PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

Cancel claim 21 and rewrite as follows:

26. (Newly Added) Apparatus in the form of a pre-assembled unitary right angle brace having interconnected horizontal and vertical strength members rigidly connected at a right angle for bracing a wall being fabricated from masonry blocks above a wall foundation, with said wall having a base-located connector opening through the block wall being fabricated, said apparatus comprising:

an adjustable threaded connector bolt positioned in said opening and extending through the wall at about the first block course above said wall foundation, said connector having a tightening nut associated therewith;

said rigid unitary right angle brace being loosely connected to said connector bolt at the right angle portion thereof free from any buried in the ground anchor, in order to allow for manual rotation of said unitary right angle brace to a vertical position with a horizontal member of said rotated brace extending away from said wall;

said horizontal member of said unitary brace having an outer end adapted for connection to an adjustable jacking means for tilting the horizontal side of said unitary brace;

said connector tightening nut brings the vertical member of said pre-assembled brace in non-wall-loading contact against said wall;

manually operable jacking means sitting on the ground and coupled to an outermost end of said horizontal member of said unitary brace for leveling said unitary brace until its vertical brace member is flush against said wall surface.

22. (First amended) The apparatus of claim [21] 26
[wherein] and further comprising:

said vertical side of said brace is a tubular steel member that is open at a top end and further comprising:

a solid top cap covering [the] said open end of said vertical support member.

23. (First amended) The apparatus of claim [21] 26
[wherein] and further comprising:

said jacking means comprises a vertical screw column of [the] a screw jack; [further comprises:]

an open cylinder positioned at the outrigger end of the horizontal member of said brace for receiving said vertical column; and

said manually operable screwjack means tilts said horizontal brace member until said horizontal brace side is essentially level and said vertical brace side is essentially flush against said wall.

24. (First amended) The apparatus of claim [21] 23 wherein said horizontal brace member is cantilever connected by said base-located connector [means] bolt and said manually operable jacking means further comprises:

a non-buried [means supported by a] load bearing surface plate sitting on the ground; and

said [last mentioned means further comprises a] vertical screw jack comprises a raising/lowering column vertically oriented on said support plate while engaging the outermost end of said horizontal brace and adjustable there against for tilting the cantilevered horizontal member of said brace.

25. (First Amended) The apparatus of claim [21] 26 wherein said brace [includes a vertical, horizontal and diagonal side and] further comprises:

tubular steel vertical, horizontal and diagonal support members;

a pair of spaced apart flanges which sandwich and rigidly affix said vertical and horizontal brace support members together into said unitary right angle brace [structure] with said [single] connector [means being a threaded] bolt and loosening and tightening nut [combination adjustably] located in an oversized opening in said vertical member and between said flange pair; and

said vertical and said horizontal members each comprise inner and outer telescoping steel members for varying their length in order to accommodate increasing wall height.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED READ AS FOLLOWS:

Cancel claim 21 and rewrite as follows:

26. Apparatus in the form of a pre-assembled unitary right angle brace having interconnected horizontal and vertical strength members rigidly connected at a right angle for bracing a wall being fabricated from masonry blocks above a wall foundation, with said wall having a base-located connector opening through the block wall being fabricated, said apparatus comprising:

an adjustable threaded connector bolt positionable in said opening and extendable through the wall at about the first block course above said wall foundation, said connector having a tightening nut associated therewith;

said rigid unitary right angle brace being loosely connected to said connector bolt at the right angle portion thereof free from any buried in the ground anchor, in order to allow for manual rotation of said unitary right angle brace to a vertical position with a horizontal member of said rotated brace extending away from said wall;

said horizontal member of said unitary brace having an outer end adapted for connection to an adjustable jacking means for tilting the horizontal side of said unitary brace;

said connector tightening nut, when tightened, bringing the vertical member of said pre-assembled brace in non-wall-loading contact against said wall;

manually operable jacking means sitting on the ground and coupled to an outermost end of said horizontal member of said unitary brace for leveling said unitary brace until its vertical brace member is flush against said wall surface and

said horizontal member maintains its unitary right angle relationship with said vertical member.

22. (First amended) The apparatus of claim 26 and further comprising:

said vertical side of said brace is a tubular steel member that is open at a top end and further comprising:

a solid top cap covering said open end of said vertical support member.

23. (First amended) The apparatus of claim 26 and further comprising;

said jacking means comprises a vertical screw column of a screw jack;

an open cylinder positioned at the outrigger end of the horizontal member of said brace for receiving said vertical column; and

said manually operable screwjack means tilts said horizontal brace member until said horizontal brace side is essentially level and said vertical brace side is essentially flush against said wall.

24. (First amended) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said horizontal brace member is cantilever connected by said base-located connector bolt and said manually operable jacking means further comprises:

a non-buried [means supported by a] load bearing surface plate sitting on the ground; and

said vertical screw jack comprises a raising/lowering column vertically oriented on said support plate while engaging the outermost end of said horizontal brace and adjustable there against for tilting the cantilevered horizontal member of said brace.

25. First Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said brace further comprises:

tubular steel vertical, horizontal and diagonal support members;

a pair of spaced apart flanges which sandwich and rigidly affix said vertical and horizontal brace support members together into said unitary right angle brace with said connector bolt and tightening nut located in an oversized opening in said vertical member and between said flange pair; and

said vertical and said horizontal members each comprise inner and outer telescoping steel members for varying their length in order to accommodate increasing wall height.